



JOSHUA  
*2006 Yearbook*

**Transforming Community**

EMBRACING DIVERSITY & FAIRNESS





## What Is JOSHUA?

Justice Organization Sharing Hope & United for Action (JOSHUA) is an interfaith coalition of faith communities joined together to bridge differences and focus on common values to address community concerns.

JOSHUA is a 501 C3 organization. Staffing fees and related expenses are funded by dues, grants and fundraising events. Charitable contributions to JOSHUA are tax-deductible.

JOSHUA is an affiliate of the national Gamaliel Foundation. At the state level, JOSHUA is part of an umbrella organization called WISDOM, which includes the following congregation-based organizations:

- CUSH in Kenosha
- ESTHER in the Fox Valley
- JOB in Rock County
- JOSHUA in Brown County
- MICAH in Milwaukee
- RIC in Racine
- SOPHIA in Waukesha

JOSHUA dedicates itself to:

- Celebrating and respecting our diversity and our varied faith traditions, while being guided by our common faith values of justice.
- Stimulating creative efforts to improve our community through dialogue both in the public and private sector, and through education and action.

JOSHUA membership is by congregation. Congregations pay dues and are the true "owners" of JOSHUA. Each JOSHUA congregation is represented on the JOSHUA Board of Directors and the JOSHUA Religious Leaders Caucus.

Issues are approved by the JOSHUA Board of Directors. For more information on how an issue is chosen, please visit our web site and click on "Issues."

JOSHUA is based on building relationships, and within each member congregation there are Core Teams which meet monthly to respond to the concerns and passions of their congregation. Core Team members are intentional about meeting one-on-one with people in their congregation and in the public arena, to foster mutual understanding and clarity of purpose.

Members of JOSHUA congregations are eligible for weeklong leadership training programs provided by JOSHUA's national umbrella organization, the Gamaliel Foundation. Leadership training is a major component of congregation-based organizing. There are four training institutes offered each year, including Spanish-speaking training sessions.

**To learn more or to schedule a presentation with members of your congregation, check out our web site at [joshua4justice.org](http://joshua4justice.org) or call JOSHUA at 362.1511.**

## { JOSHUA Mission Statement }

*JOSHUA deepens relationships within and among congregations and empowers people to act together for justice in pursuit of their individual and collective interests.*

## { Gamaliel Foundation Vision Statement }

*JOSHUA is an affiliate of the national Gamaliel Foundation. The following Vision Statement was adopted by the Gamaliel Foundation in 2005.*

**We claim the value of unrelenting hope over numbing fear.**

**We hold that all people are part of a sacred community, intended by God to realize their own dignity, worth, power and voice.**

**We defy raw greed for the benefit of few and**

**We claim the value of sustaining abundance for all.**

**We claim the value of a sacred community over isolating individualism.**

**We further claim that each person has the right and responsibility to make the sacred community a reality.**

**We affirm equal opportunity for all and abhor all forms of injustice flowing from racism, poverty, and intolerance.**

JOSHUA was present in the 2005 Downtown Green Bay Holiday Parade...







**A Word from  
 JOSHUA President,  
 Barbara Shiffer**

JOSHUA's mission is to share our vision and our deepest values, and to empower us to live out these values in order to transform our community.

I find tremendous hope when I see people of faith joining together to name and claim faith values that unite—not divide. JOSHUA members believe our society needs to act out of faith and hope, not fear; we need to encourage compassion rather than suspicion. Imagine the potential for hope in Brown County when we as people of faith act on the conviction that everyone in the human family is a child of God deserving respect, and that we all have the right and responsibility of building sacred community together.

*Barbara Shiffer*

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[www.joshua4justice.org](http://www.joshua4justice.org)

...and won the Grand Marshall's award!





# Issues

## :: Diversity in Our Schools

JOSHUA values equal opportunity for all children, and we believe that racial and economic diversity in our schools is a positive value for all. We applaud the Task Force, the Board of Education, and the School District Administration for their recognition that socioeconomic balance in our schools will have a positive impact on student achievement. In the fall of 2005, members of JOSHUA:

- Attended school board meetings
- Spoke at several special forums sponsored by the Board of Education on the issue of the proposed new high school, urging support of the East Side Task Force Proposal.

## :: Mixed-Income Workforce Housing

The best way to keep our schools diverse is to make our neighborhoods diverse. Economic diversity in a community can open doors of opportunity to all. JOSHUA believes people should be able to afford to live in the communities where they work, and that any form of segregation hurts everyone.

- At the February 9th Public Action JOSHUA commissioned 12 people in the newly formed Workforce Housing Task Force. Comprised of local government, business, Homebuilders Association and other community groups, the group began meeting in April 2006.

## Diversity goals praised during new school forum

By Kelly McBride  
Except from Oct. 14, 2005, *Green Bay Press-Gazette*

Diversity and busing logistics were two issues at the forefront of public discussion Thursday as the Green Bay School Board held the first of three public forums to gain input on a proposed fifth district high school and related redistricting.

About 150 people attended the forum in the auditorium at Preble High School.

After a 45-minute introduction and review of the proposed plan, based on work by the Green Bay School District's East Side Task Force, members of the public got their chance to weigh in.

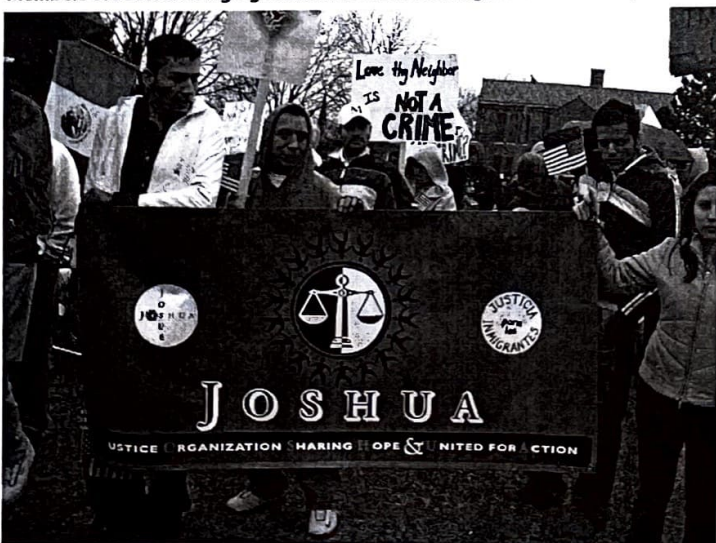
First among them were several members of Justice Organization Sharing Hope and United for Action, an organization consisting locally of several area churches. About 40 JOSHUA members stood as those speaking praised the district's goals of incorporating diversity into the plan for a fifth high school.

"We are on the threshold of a marvelous opportunity," said the Rev. Steve Hartman, pastor of First Baptist Church in Green Bay. "The opportunity for students is closely linked to a commitment to diversity."

Several other JOSHUA members also spoke in support of the plan, including Franklin Middle School teacher Julie Srenaski, who said she sees the importance of diversity every day in her teaching.

Ensuring a socioeconomic balance at each district school was one of the four objectives for the new attendance areas established in the task force recommendations.

Members of JOSHUA congregations march at the immigration reform rally.



Over 3,5000 people rallied on April 2, 2006 in the rain.





## Transforming Our Community: Putting Faith Values Into Action

### :: Human Rights of Immigrants

Each of us, unless we are Native American, is an immigrant or the product of immigrant ancestors. However, we continually see negative headlines and signs of intolerant attitudes towards immigrants and refugees in our local community, in our state and in our nation. Fear and ignorance may keep us from welcoming our brothers and sisters with love. On the national level, U.S. immigration laws and policies are in desperate need of reform.

- JOSUE (JOSHUA's Spanish speaking arm) was formed in Fall, 2005
- Members of the Immigration Committee met with U.S. Rep. Mark Green in October 2005, and urged him to support humane immigration reform legislation that is consistent with our values.
- In a show of support, JOSHUA was a visible presence at the April 2, 2006 immigration march and rally that drew over 3,500 people to the steps of the Brown County Courthouse. Several JOSHUA members spoke to the crowd during the organized event.

We do not condone violation of the law. We are concerned, however, that the existing immigration system has made it nearly impossible for hard-working people seeking employment to support their families or even to enter this country legally.

- JOSHUA is committed to working together with the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay and other organizations in helping to achieve justice for the immigrants.

### :: Treatment Instead of Prison (TIP)

Because we value compassion, JOSHUA supports Treatment Instead of Prison (TIP.) We believe we are called to treat every person the way that we would want ourselves to be treated if we fell into similar trouble. And, because we value good stewardship, we support TIP because it saves tax dollars. Communities can be made safer by dealing with underlying causes of crime. We believe that TIP is fair; we believe it is a way to be "smart on crime," rather than just being tough; we believe that now is the time for Wisconsin to invest in treatment alternatives to incarceration.

- In July 2005, the budget passed by the Wisconsin legislature included grant money for counties to create drug and alcohol treatment programs.
- JOSHUA's TIP Committee began local efforts to encourage the creation of a pilot Drug Treatment Court Project in Brown County.

### { Other JOSHUA Concerns }

The issues listed above are some of JOSHUA's "official" issues. (See page 6 on how issues are chosen.) There are many other issues of fairness and many other challenges that some JOSHUA members are exploring and are calling to our attention. These include:

#### :: Environment

As people of faith, we believe we must strive to be good stewards of the land and all that it contains. To this end:

- Written comments were submitted at a public hearing in the State Capitol on Wisconsin's newly drafted Energy Bill, which encouraged legislators to think about a long-term plan that would move Wisconsin towards a cleaner, more reliable energy future based on conservation, efficiency, and new sources of renewable energy.

#### :: Mental Health Center and Other Human Services in Brown County

It is our belief that the most vulnerable persons in our community have the right to receive a responsible program of care and services. A major challenge that exists today, which compromises the quality care individuals receive, is the continued delay in renovating or building a new mental health center. As members of JOSHUA, we wish to work with individuals and organizations, to advocate for essential and responsible human services in Brown County, and we call upon the County to be more transparent with its plans and budgets.

Bishop Robert Momeau, one of the featured rally speakers, and Sister Sally Ann Brickner (Lady Liberty!) are geared up to march.





# In The News: Ecumenical JOSHUA Group Seeking Better World

By Jeff Kurowski, Compass Assistant Editor  
February 9, 2006

They came from different socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds, various faiths and political affiliations, but the nearly 400 people who gathered at St. Matthew Parish for JOSHUA's first public action event all shared a common thread.

"All of us share the value that we want the community to be a better place," said Barbara Shiffer, JOSHUA president. "We all share the value that we believe that we are all children of God who deserve respect and the right to a better future."

JOSHUA (Justice Organization Sharing Hope and United for Action), a congregation-based group in Green Bay, was formed in May of 2004 to empower people to act together for justice. Founding congregations include Nativity of Our Lord, St. Bernard and St. Matthew parishes, and the Sisters of St. Francis of the Holy Cross.

Two new JOSHUA congregations, Resurrection Parish and First United Methodist, were welcomed at the public gathering, which featured the theme, "Many Faces: One Community, Celebrating Faith and Values." The public action program included prayer, music and summaries of JOSHUA issues presented by committee members.

"The format was very directly linked to our grassroots methodology," said Shiffer. "We want to get as many lay people involved as possible."

"It fit in with our theme, 'Many Faces: One Community,'" said Mike Westenberg, director of Religious Education at St. Matthew Parish and a JOSHUA board member. "It was an opportunity to showcase the variety of people and variety of issues, so we didn't want one person to dominate up front." Julie Srenaski of the JOSHUA Education Sub-Committee

Nearly 400 people attended the February 9 Public Action Meeting held at St. Matthew's Catholic Parish.



discussed diversity in the schools. The issue has drawn considerable attention in Green Bay in relation to a proposal to build a fifth public high school. Srenaski, a teacher at Franklin Middle School, spoke of the benefits of diversity while she was a student.

"Although I didn't realize it at the time, I was very fortunate to have attended Franklin Middle School and West High School," she said. "Not only did I meet people who were different from me, but I became friends with them. I learned about their lives and cultures, and truly began to understand them. Our schools can and should take an active role in embracing diversity."

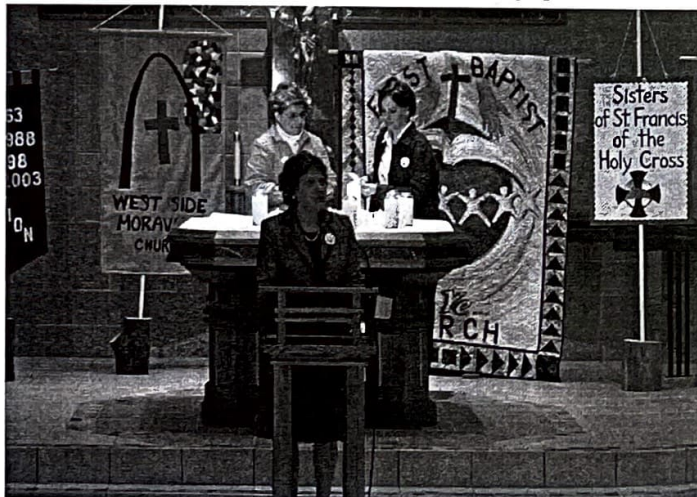
***"We believe  
that we are all  
children of God  
who deserve  
respect and a  
better future."***

Dr. Dan Nerad, superintendent of the Green Bay Public School District, was honored. Paul Jadin, former mayor of Green Bay, was recognized for his work with the East Side Task Force. Dr. Nerad thanked JOSHUA for its support. Ninety members of the organization attended four forums to discuss school zoning and the proposal for a new high school. He asked those in attendance to continue their support by voting for the fifth high school on Nov. 7, 2006.

"It was wonderful that Dr. Nerad made the association between diversity and the high school issue," said Shiffer. "He sees that interconnectedness. We have to be involved in the community as people of faith."

"We have to find ways to bring people together," said Westenberg. "We (JOSHUA) choose an issue and focus on solutions to the issue from across the political spectrum. Instead of stopping at the first right answer, we can see that there are multiple answers. As we stick to it and work together, we can find answers that everyone can buy into."

Recruitment Chairperson Judy Vogels officially welcomed Resurrection Catholic Parish and First United Methodist Church as new member congregations.





# Public Action Meeting Posted February 24, 2006

When JOSHUA was formed, affordable housing was the organization's initial focus. A Workforce Housing Task Force, which includes Karen Johnston, diocesan director of Catholic Charities, was introduced at the gathering.

JOSHUA's new Spanish-speaking arm, JOSUE, was also introduced. Ana and Fernando Campos, JOSUE co-chairs, spoke at the public action meeting.

"In Green Bay, the number of Latino immigrants continues to increase and this does not please too many people," said Fernando. "We are hard working people. My supervisor praises me at work, but he will not accept me as a neighbor."

JOSUE is offering a "Know Your Rights" information session at 6:30 p.m., March 6 at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Green Bay. As a follow-up to the introduction of JOSUE, Bp. Robert Morneau, pastor of Resurrection Parish, and Sheila De Luca, pastoral associate, read a message from Bp. David Zubik about the human rights of immigrants.

"Sometimes, I think we forget our immigrant roots," said Westenberg. "If you look at the pattern of settlement for this area, just in the city, how do we associate the Catholic steeples we see around? They were formed by a particular ethnic group. JOSUE is an opportunity for the primarily Spanish-speaking folks to get together as a group, with some community leaders and to find better ways to get into the community."

Other presentations included Dick Vogels, discussing workforce housing, John Delwiche explaining the need for a new mental health center, and Jayne Baumgart who offered witness to the call for treatment instead of prison.

JOSHUA is following up the public action event with "Faith and Value Discussions" in March and April at participating congregations. The discussions will feature an exchange of facilitators. For example, a member of West Moravian Church may facilitate the discussion at a Catholic parish.

"It keeps with our whole mission of being an inter-faith organization," said Shiffer. "These are listening sessions. They are not going to be meetings where information is presented. We want to become clearer about our faith and how our faith moves us to act."

"For us as Catholic congregations, it's a wonderful opportunity to talk in plain language about Catholic social teaching," said Westenberg. "How do you view this world around you? If it's not in tune with your faith, what can you do to make it better? We need to work together to meet the challenges."

For more information about JOSHUA, call (920)362-1511 or visit [www.joshua4justice.org](http://www.joshua4justice.org).

JOSHUA thanks you for lighting up our world.



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**Issues**

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Taku Ronsman, Co-Chairs

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First United Methodist Church  
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Resurrection Catholic Church  
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**The Board of Directors of JOSHUA is very grateful for the special financial support provided by the following JOSHUA Sustaining Members:**

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***If you would like to become a sustaining member, visit our web site at [joshua4justice.org](http://joshua4justice.org) and click on contributions. Or call 362.1511.***

JOSHUA is deeply grateful to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development for their continuing support.

**A very special thank you to the following individual donors for their generous support:**

Tom Geurts  
Mr. Norman Miller



April 29, 2006 Fundraising Event

# Embracing Diversity & Fairness



**Paul Jadin**  
 >JOSHUA "Spirit of Leadership" 2006 Award Recipient

JOSHUA chose to award the 2006 Spirit of Leadership award to a man who has been exemplary in his work for the good of the entire community of Green Bay. As mayor, Paul Jadin was a uniter—a man who could bring different people and groups together to bring about better government and an improved community for everyone. As President of the Green Bay Area Chamber of Commerce, Jadin has continued to work to maintain a healthy Green Bay—an environment that attracts and retains business.

Recently, Mr. Jadin served as co-chair with Dr. Dan Nerad of the Task Force that recommended a plan for a new high school. The Task Force balanced many needs and interests, while ensuring that the value of diversity was maintained and that the new school would be a benefit to every part of our community. JOSHUA is also very appreciative of the step Mr. Jadin took to rally hundreds of local businesses to go on the record as supportive of diversity in our community. Even as some voices of intolerance and exclusion were being heard in the community, Paul Jadin stood for inclusion and respect.

Brown County is a better place because of Paul Jadin's courage, vision, and dedication to the values of fairness and diversity.



**Rev. Steve Hartman**  
 >JOSHUA Dedicated Service 2006 Award Recipient

Rev. Steve Hartman has been instrumental in bringing JOSHUA into existence and in helping it grow into a positive force in Brown County. Rev. Hartman led First Baptist Church of Green Bay to become a founding member of JOSHUA, and he served as the organization's first Vice President. Pastor Hartman has been willing to listen and learn from all around him, to articulate the faith values that underlie all of JOSHUA's work, and willing to stand as a representative for the group in difficult situations.

**JOSHUA is committed to building relationships**

ASHWAUBENON—We applaud the Chamber of Commerce and their "Community leaders support diversity" statement. The Religious Leaders of JOSHUA (Justice Organization Sharing Hope and United for Action) join the chamber of Commerce in the privilege of welcoming new brothers and sisters to this community. It is a tremendous source of hope when civic and business leaders embrace diversity.

As people of faith, we claim newcomers as our neighbors. We see the rich tapestry of God's creation in the diverse backgrounds that comprise this community. Faith always affirms the other as sister and brother. When we see the immigrant as neighbors, we affirm the image of God they embody.

As religious leaders of JOSHUA we are committed to building relationships. When you get to know and to work alongside others, it changes you. It is gratifying to see persons of diverse faith backgrounds discovering the shared values that compel us to work for the common good.

**James T. Hicks, Chairperson**  
 JOSHUA Religious Leaders Caucus and pastor, West Side Moravian Church

Reprinted from the People's Forum, Green Bay Press-Gazette February 24, 2006

Despite many other leadership roles with the state and national American Baptist Church, and in Brown County, Rev. Hartman always found time for the justice work of JOSHUA. After 17 years of exemplary service to First Baptist Church, to Green Bay and Wisconsin, Rev. Hartman has accepted a new call in New York State.

JOSHUA is profoundly grateful to Rev. Steve Hartman for his dedicated service to our organization and our community. We pray for God's continued blessings on his future ministries.



**Dennis Maloney**  
 >2006 Keynote Speaker

JOSHUA is privileged in 2006 to have had Dennis Maloney as the keynote speaker for our annual fundraiser. A renowned expert in corrections policy, Mr. Maloney has had an impact on the criminal justice system of every state in the union. He has been consulted by governments around the world. His writings are necessary reading for anyone who is seriously engaged in criminal justice and corrections reform.

JOSHUA is particularly proud of Dennis Maloney because he is a native son of Green Bay. His mother (Carol Maloney) and sister (Mary McDonald) are dedicated JOSHUA members and members of St. Bernard's Catholic Church. We are pleased that, through the Treatment Instead of Prison

campaign, Dennis Maloney's work has gained more attention in his native state.

JOSHUA is honored to be in the company of many renowned groups who have learned from Dennis Maloney.



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- Margaret Mead

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*"This is what Yahweh asks of you: Only this, to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God."* Micah 6:8



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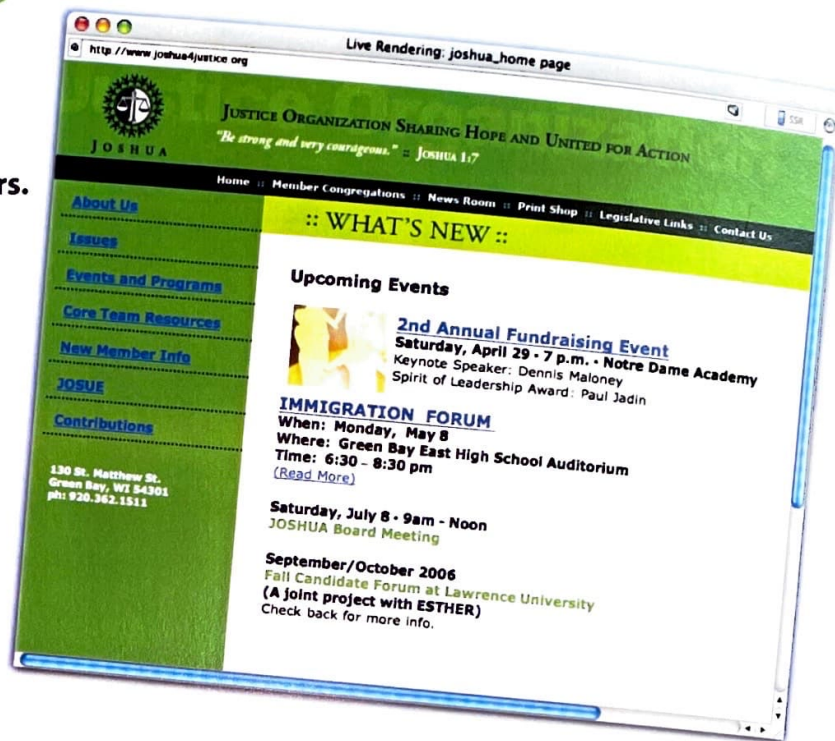
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